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IRTHLINGBOROUGH
URBAN DISTRICT

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ANNUAL REPORT

of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the
Year 1955

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P. X. BERMINGHAM, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Together with the Report of

A. DEWHURST, M.R.S.H., M.S.I.A.

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Irthlingborough Urban District.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS, 1955.

Area (acres)	2,910
Population 1921 (census)	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,911
„ 1931 (census)	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,621
„ 1951 (census)	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,015
„ 1955	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,100
Number of separate dwellings occupied 1921 (census)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,002
„ „ „ „ „ 1931 (census)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,208
„ „ „ „ „ 1955	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,753
Rateable value, 1955	...	...	...	...	...	...	£24,049
Product of a penny rate, 1955	...	...	...	...	...	...	£93

Live Births.					Total	Male	Female	Rate
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	72	35	37	
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	4	—	4	
					76	35	41	14.90

Stillbirths.					Total	Male	Female	Rate
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	2	1	1	
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
					2	1	1	0.39

					Total	Male	Female	Rate
Deaths (all causes)	...	...	...	...	53	24	29	10.39

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis	...	...	...	...	nil.
Other puerperal causes	...	...	...	...	nil.

Infant Mortality—rate per 1,000 live births.					Total	Male	Female	Rate
Legitimate	—	—	—	
Illegitimate	—	—	—	nil.
					—	—	—	nil.

Deaths from Cancer (All ages)	...	...	...	...	5
„ „ Measles (All ages)	...	...	...	...	nil.
„ „ Whooping Cough (All ages)	...	...	...	...	nil.
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	nil.

Irthlingborough Urban District Council.

Members of the Public Health Committee :

COUNCILLORS R. B. BLAND (Chairman), MRS. M. D. BRIDGLAND, B. BRIGHTWELL, H. D. BUGBY (Chairman of the Council), C. E. GRIMMER, MISS V. M. REYNOLDS and H. K. WOOLSEY.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority :

Medical Officer of Health,

P. X. BERMINGHAM, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

also holds appointments of

Medical Officer of Health, Borough of Higham Ferrers.

Medical Officer of Health, Wellingborough Urban District Council.

Medical Officer of Health, Rushden Urban District Council.

Medical Officer of Health, Wellingborough Rural District Council.

School Medical Officer.

Secretary :

MISS J. PEARSON.

Sanitary Inspector, Meat Inspector, Surveyor, etc.,

A. DEWHURST, M.R.S.H., M.S.I.A.

Certified Meat and Food Inspector.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
SWANSPool,
WELLINGBOROUGH.

July, 1956.

**To the Chairman and Councillors of the Urban District Council of
Irthlingborough.**

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my eighth Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the area for the year 1955.

An account of the Vital Statistics for the year will be found in Section A. The birth rate, 14.90 per 1,000 of population, showed a slight increase on the previous year when it was 14.28. The death rate, 10.39, was slightly higher than the rate for 1954, which was 9.39 per 1,000. It is interesting to note the fall in the number of deaths from cancer, 5 compared with 16 in 1954. One death was due to cancer of lung or bronchus. Once again there were no deaths from Maternal causes and it is now twelve years since a death was recorded under this heading. It is also pleasing to report that no infant deaths occurred during the year. From Table No. 2, page 23 it will be seen that the Infant Mortality rate over the last six years has been very satisfactory.

Once again in Section B a full list of the Health Services available is given in detail. This is useful information and many enquiries are dealt with at my office concerning such services. The area is well provided for. Also in this section an account of some of the activities of the Old Folks' Welfare Committee is given. This Committee is carrying out excellent work amongst the old people of the town and should be congratulated on their very fine efforts.

In Section C details concerning Water Supply and Sewage Disposal are given. A synopsis of this section would be difficult to make, but the details should be of interest to every Councillor. Supplementing the Water Supply is important, and also consideration of a water softening plant should be investigated further. The comparison between the chemical analysis of crude sewage and final effluent shows how well the sewage disposal plant is coping with the situation, but trade wastes are a problem.

In Section D an account of the building progress carried out during the year will be found. A very satisfactory start has been made on the problem of slum clearance and the re-development of clearance areas.

Section E deals with the inspection and supervision of food premises. Meat inspection is an important service to the public and it is pleasing to

record that a hundred per cent inspection of all carcasses is carried out in Irthlingborough. The introduction of the new Food Hygiene Regulations will mean increased activity with regard to inspections of food premises.

Section F deals with the Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and Other Diseases. It will be seen that 1955 was a measles year and 206 cases were notified. This is the greatest number of cases since 1951, when 219 cases occurred. There were no deaths and only one case was removed to hospital. Irthlingborough continues to maintain its fine record with regard to the absence of Diphtheria and no case has occurred in the area for seventeen years. The area has also been free from a case of Poliomyelitis for five years. The number of notifications of cases of Tuberculosis showed a fall, but one death occurred. The number of cases of Whooping Cough showed a satisfactory fall from nineteen cases in 1954 to one case notified in 1955. It is disappointing to record the fall in the number of vaccinations carried out during the period, but it is hoped that this will only be a temporary lapse and the improvement noted in the previous year will once again be maintained in the future.

In conclusion, once again I would like to thank Mr. Dewhurst for information supp'ed for this report and for his most valuable assistance in many matters throughout the year. I should also like to thank the Clerk and other officials for their help during the period and to thank the County Medical Officer of Health for supplying statistics concerning vaccination and immunisation figures. I should also like to record my thanks to Miss Pearson for assistance in compiling data for this report, and finally would like to thank the Chairman and members of the Health Committee for their encouragement and support during the year.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient Servant,

P. X. BERMINGHAM,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area—The Urban District of Irthlingborough covers an area of 2,910 acres.

Population—The Registrar General, in his returns for the mid-year 1955, gives the estimated population of Irthlingborough as 5,100. This figure shows a fall of 10 on the previous year. The natural increase, that is the number of births over deaths, was 23.

Deaths—Fifty-three deaths occurred, which gives a rate for the year of 10.39 compared with 9.39 for the previous year. The rate for England and Wales for 1955 was 11.7 per 1,000 of population. Table No. 1, page 22, gives a classification of the causes of death. The following table shows a comparison between the death rates for Irthlingborough, England and Wales, and the Administrative County, for the period 1946-1955.

Death Dates, 1946-55

<i>Irthlingborough</i>					<i>Administrative County</i>	<i>England & Wales</i>
<i>Year</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Recorded Rate</i>	<i>Recorded Rate</i>	
1946	51	23	28	10.85	12.00	11.5
1947	59	26	33	12.26	12.43	12.0
1948	55	29	26	11.7	11.00	10.8
1949	75	39	36	15.09	12.07	11.7
1950	47	26	21	9.65	12.01	11.6
1951	62	28	34	12.30	12.13	12.5
1952	58	32	26	11.60	11.04	11.3
1953	47	28	19	9.23	11.51	11.4
1954	48	30	18	9.39	11.04	11.3
1955	53	24	29	10.39	*	11.7

* not available.

Births—Seventy-six births were recorded, which gives a birth rate for the year of 14.90 per 1,000 of population compared with 14.28 for the previous year. The birth rate for England and Wales for 1955 was 15.0. Further statistics dating back to 1902 will be found in Table No. 2, page 23.

Illegitimate Births—Four illegitimate births were recorded. This gives a rate of 0.78 per 1,000 of population. The rate for the previous year was 0.97.

Stillbirths—Two stillbirths were recorded during the year, which gives a rate of 0.39 per 1,000 of population. The rate for the previous year was 0.78. Prior to 1954 no stillbirths had been recorded for three years.

Maternal Mortality—No deaths have been recorded under this heading for twelve years, which is very satisfactory.

Infant Mortality—No infant deaths occurred during the year and so the rate is Nil. The rate for the previous year was 13.69 per 1,000 live births. If the rate is perused in Table No. 2, page 23, it will be seen that the Infant Mortality rate has been maintained at a satisfactory low level over a number of years. The infant mortality rate for England and Wales for 1955 was 24.9. The following table shows a comparison between the infant mortality rates for England and Wales, the Administrative County and Irthlingborough over the last five years :

	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Irthlingborough ...	24.69(2)	(0) *	12.65(1)	13.69(1)	(0) *
Administrative County	25.26	24.96	24.70	23.49	*
England and Wales ...	29.6	27.6	26.8	25.5	24.9

* *Number of Deaths.*

Irthlingborough's low rate is very satisfactory to record.

Neonatal Mortality—This is a sub-division of the infant mortality rate and concerns infant deaths which occur within twenty-eight days of independent existence. No deaths were recorded and the rate for the year is Nil. The rate for the previous year was 13.69 per 1,000 live births.

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Laboratory Services—Specimens in association with Public Health work carried out in the area are sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Northampton or the laboratory at Kettering General Hospital. The assistance received from these two laboratories was much appreciated.

Diphtheria Antitoxin—Due to the success of the immunisation campaign over the years, requests for antitoxin are almost a thing of the past. The Oxford Regional Hospital Board is responsible for this supply and keep stocks at the following places :

NORTHAMPTON GENERAL HOSPITAL
KETTERING GENERAL HOSPITAL
WELLINGBOROUGH HOSPITAL

Ambulance Service—This service is provided by the County Council. During the year larger centres were taken over by the County but agents still act for the County in the smaller districts. One ambulance is kept at Irthlingborough. Infectious disease cases are now removed by ambulance from the Wellingborough Centre.

Nursing in the Home and Home Helps—These services are provided by the County Council. Cases requiring Home Helps are referred to the County Medical Officer and every effort is made to provide this service to deserving cases. These services often tide over a crisis in a family and help out a young mother. Also the Home Help service can do much for the Old and often save a hospital bed.

Treatment Centres and Clinics—On the first Thursday of each month an Infant Welfare Centre is held at the St. Peter's Church Schoolrooms. A second centre was opened on May 19th and is held on the third Thursday of the month at Welford Hall, Addington Road Estate. An antenatal and postnatal clinic is held at St. Peter's Church rooms on the fourth Friday of each month. The Infant Welfare Centres and Clinics are run by the County Health Department.

On the first and third Friday afternoons of the month an Orthopaedic Clinic is held at the Wesleyan Schoolrooms, Queen Street, Rushden. This is run by the Manfield Orthopaedic Hospital.

Hospital Accommodation—The Oxford Regional Hospital Board is responsible for the area. Arrangements provided are as follows :

General Hospitals: Northampton and Kettering.

Wellingborough Hospital: Gynaecological and children.

Wellingborough Park Hospital: Chronic sick, the aged and old persons in need of care and attention.

Further accommodation for such cases is provided at St. Mary's Hospital, Kettering, and at Oundle.

At the Park Hospital there is also a Maternity Block for cases from the area.

Infectious Diseases : The Harborough Road Hospital, Northampton, provides accommodation for cases of Infectious Diseases requiring isolation and hospital treatment.

The Rushden House Sanatorium provides accommodation for cases of Tuberculosis.

The Rushden Memorial Hospital, The Hayway, Rushden, provides out-patient facilities and the following clinics are held :

GYNAECOLOGICAL	...	...	1st and 3rd Monday mornings
			2nd and 4th Tuesday mornings
MEDICAL	...	...	1st, 3rd, 4th and 5th Monday afternoons
SURGICAL	...	...	1st and 3rd Tuesday afternoons
			2nd, 4th and 5th Friday mornings
E.N.T.	...	...	2nd and 4th Wednesday mornings
			1st, 3rd and 5th Wednesday afternoons
EYES	...	...	1st and 3rd Thursday mornings
ORTHOPTIST	...	...	Every Thursday morning and afternoon
UROLOGICAL	...	...	2nd and 4th Wednesday afternoons
PHYSIOTHERAPY	...	...	Monday afternoons
PSYCHIATRIC	...	...	Every Friday afternoon
SKIN	...	...	2nd and 4th Saturday mornings
PAEDIATRIC	...	...	Every Wednesday morning

Consultants from Northampton and Kettering attend.

National Assistance Act, 1948—Under Section 47 of the Act the Council is responsible for the removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention. No action was found necessary under this Section during the year.

The Irthlingborough Old Folks Welfare Committee again was very active during the year. This Committee is divided into two sections, one concerned with the running of the Darby and Joan Club and a Chiropody Service, and the second section with the welfare of other old persons in the town who are often confined to their homes and not members of the Darby and Joan Club. The Chiropody Clinic is held on the first Monday of each month at the Council buildings and is well attended. The Welfare Committee, with the assistance of the District Nurse and Health Visitor, are doing a very fine job in visiting old folks in their homes and helping them with their many problems.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply—The water supply for the town is provided by the Urban District Council. The sources of supply are the same as in previous years, four shallow wells sunk in the Nene Valley Gravels. The principal well, or town well, is augmented by two other wells, and the fourth well is used for trade purposes only.

Gravel wells are affected in dry seasons and output falls. Also it is inadvisable to pump from such wells continuously over long periods when the yield is falling. The gravels under such circumstances are inclined to become clogged with subsequent diminution of supply. The Council, mindful of this fact, have explored alternative means to supplement their water supply at such times and there are gravel pits in the vicinity. Chemical analysis of water from this source is similar to the water in the wells and bacteriological examination of samples were satisfactory. These gravel pits should be a valuable source of supply and an acquisition to the Council's water undertakings.

Quantity—The combined yield from the three wells is approximately 228,000 gallons per day, but as stated, this quantity may fall in a dry season. The output from the fourth well is approximately 72,000 gallons per day.

Quality—A chemical analysis of a sample of water carried out during the year gave the following results :

						<i>Parts</i> <i>per 100,000</i>
pH	...	...	7.3			
Sulphates (as S.O. ₄)	...	...	...	...	...	15.78
Suspended solids	...	...	...	...	...	<i>Nil</i>
Dissolved solids	...	...	...	...	...	67.68
Chloride (as Cl ₂)	...	...	...	...	...	6.8
Free ammonia	...	...	...	...	...	0.0192
Albuminoid ammonia	...	...	...	...	...	0.006
Nitrate (as N ₂)	...	...	...	...	...	0.1
Nitrite	...	...	...	...	...	very faint trace
Oxygen consumed from permanganate (4 hours at 80°F)	...	...	...	...	...	0.0672 (N/80)
Temporary Hardness	...	...	...	...	...	36.69
Permanent Hardness	...	...	...	...	...	13.31
Total Hardness	...	...	...	...	...	50.00
Iron as Fe	...	...	...	...	...	0.04
Physical examination	...	...	...	...	clear, colourless, odourless.	

From the analysis it will be seen that this is a very hard water. A water with a total hardness of over 30 parts per 100,000 should be softened. This matter requires further consideration.

The total hardness of sample of water from the gravel pits was 32.85, which is considerably lower than water from the gravel wells. The addition of this water to the town supply would help to bring down the total hardness.

Treatment—Chlorination of water is carried out by means of Patersons Gravity Chloronome apparatus. Filtration follows by means of three cylindrical sand filters and the water is then de-chlorinated by passage through an activated charcoal filter. The water is pumped from the works by two electrically driven centrifugal pumps, each capable of pumping at the rate of 15,000 gallons per hour to a service reservoir with a capacity of 689,000 gallons situated near Windmill Road. The water undertakings are well maintained.

Water Consumption—The total water consumption for the year was 85,946,000 gallons. This shows an increase of 5,657,801 gallons over the previous year. Water consumption over the past five years was as follows :

Total consump-	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951
tion ...	85,946,000	79,288,199	85,348,000	79,357,000	86,525,000

The following table shows the average daily consumption per head over the same period :

	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951
All purposes ...	46.15	42.68	46.62	43.22	47.37
Domestic ...	24.59	22.10	23.86	20.44	24.07
Trade ...	21.56	20.58	22.76	22.78	23.30

Water Samples—164 samples of water were taken for bacteriological examination during the year. The results were as follows :

	No. of samples	Very factory	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory
Untreated water	55	53	2	Nil
Treated water	109	109	—	Nil

It will be seen from the above that the results were of a satisfactory nature.

Piped Water Supplies—1,671 houses have a piped water supply. This figure shows an increase of 41 over the previous year. 80 houses in the area are dependent on standpipes. This figure shows a fall of 28 on the previous year. Three houses in the district are not on town main supply.

Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal—Sewage Works—The works are modern and a brief description of the method adopted for dealing with sewage is as follows : Sewage first enters collecting tanks and from here is pumped to the detritus tanks and from this to pyramidical continuous flow settlement tanks. In these settlement tanks heavy solids in suspension fall out of solution and form sludge.

From the settlement tanks effluent by gravitation flows to six circular primary filter beds. Effluent from these beds is collected in humus tank and from this tank is led to three secondary filter beds. The effluent from these filter beds is collected again in a humus tank, and from this to out-fall and into the River Nene. Sludge is pumped into sludge drying beds and eight new beds were constructed in 1954 to help deal with a sludge problem experienced at these works. Due to the nature of the crude sewage dealt with at these works and the fact that strong trade wastes are combined with the domestic sewage, considerable trouble in the past has been caused by the quantity of sludge formed and its disposal. The new beds have helped considerably, although many difficulties had to be overcome before they began to function efficiently. The time factor involved in the emptying of the beds now requires consideration, and mechanical means of dealing with this should be considered. The results of chemical analysis of samples of crude sewage and final effluent taken during the year were as follows :

Both samples were taken by means of hourly dippings over the period 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on October 24th, 1955.

Results are expressed in parts per 100,000.

				<i>Crude Sewage</i>	<i>Final Effluent</i>
Suspended solids	...	...	...	169.8	4.06
Dissolved solids	...	...	...	214.7	169.6
Chloride (as Cl ₂)	...	...	...	54.0	40.0
Free ammonia ...	...	...	...	4.2	0.288
Albuminoid ammonia	...	...	...	2.4	0.168
Nitrite ...	...	...	...	<i>Nil</i>	Very heavy trace
Nitrate (as N ₂) ...	...	...	...	<i>Nil</i>	2.50
Oxygen consumed from permanganate					
(4 hours at 80°F) ...	...	...	...	32.16 (N/8)	1.744 (N/80)
Dissolved oxygen absorbed in 5 days				76.0 (x200)	1.8 (x5)
pH ...	...	...	...	6.9	7.9
Strength McGowan	...	...	...	242	14

*Remarks—Crude Sewage—*Suspended solids, chlorides and oxidisable organic matter are high, no doubt due to trade effluent from the leather curriers. It is a very strong and faintly acid sewage, containing much trade effluent.

Final Effluent—Suspended solids are slightly in excess of the usual limit of 3 parts per 100,000, but the 5 day B.O.D. figure is less than the usual limit of 2 parts per 100,000. Oxygen consumed is high, but there is evidence of a good degree of nitrification.

This effluent does not strictly comply with the Royal Commission Standards, but considering the very difficult strong sewage, the results are reasonably satisfactory.

From these remarks it will be seen that the sewage disposal plant is dealing satisfactorily with the crude sewage at the present time, but the situation with regard to trade wastes must always be kept under observation.

The total volume of sewage dealt with at the works during the year was 75,170,000 gallons, which shows a decrease on the figure for the previous year, which was 84,648,000 gallons. This is most probably due to the fact that 1955 was a dry year, and the difference would be due to a fall in the quantity of rainwater reaching the works in the sewers. The rainfall in the area for 1955 was 18.69 ins. compared with 28.44 ins. in 1954.

The average daily flow in 1955 was 204,575 compared with 231,912 gallons in the previous year.

Disinfection—Concurrent and terminal disinfection of houses associated with cases of infectious diseases was carried out when required. Arrangements exist with the Rushden Urban District Council for articles of clothing, bedding, etc., associated with infectious disease cases, to be steam disinfected at their disinfection centre.

Movable Dwellings, Public Health Act, 1936, S. 269—No applications for licences for movable dwellings were received during the year.

Public Cleansing—Weekly collections of household refuse are made. A 50 cwt. Bedford motor lorry is used and approximately 860 loads were collected and brought to the Ditchford Road Tip. Controlled tipping is carried out.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949—The Council have an arrangement with the Wellingborough Urban District Council for the area to be visited weekly by their Rodent Operator. The following work was carried out during the year :

Town Sewers	...	...	...	...	Two treatments
Sewage Works	...	...	...	...	Three treatments
Refuse Tip	...	...	...	...	Twelve treatment
Private Houses	...	...	...	...	101
Industrial Premises	...	...	...	...	Surveys 17
Agricultural Premises	...	...	...	...	Surveys 13

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

The Housing Programme for the year was as follows :

No. of council houses constructed, 1955	...	...	...	...	37
No. of council houses under construction at end of year	...	...	...	...	18

Types of houses—10 bungalows for old folk ; accommodation consists of two bedrooms, one living-room, kitchen and bathroom with an inside W.C.

27 three bedroomed houses.

Private development :

No. of private houses constructed during the year	...	...	...	4
No. of private houses under construction at end of year	...	...	...	3

The bungalows built by the Council were for old folk who were re-housed from unfit properties. The area selected for the erection of these bungalows was in the vicinity of the former houses of these old people. It is to be recommended that when old people are re-housed, if possible, let this be carried out near to areas where they previously have lived, and not move them on to new estates.

Re-development of one of the cleared areas took place and six houses were erected on this site. This is the first phase of the re-development of Slum Clearance sites.

It will be remembered that in last year's report I stated that some houses were built in Cherry Street for persons in the Park Street Clearance Area. A tenth house was constructed in 1955 and so completed building in that particular area. The remaining 20 houses were built on the Addington Road Estate.

At the request of the Ministry a survey of unfit properties in the area was made during the year. A five year programme was drawn up to deal with these properties and submitted to the Council. This was accepted and submitted to the Ministry. 157 houses were included in the five year plan and phased. Official representations were made to the Council covering the following areas :

Bull Yard	...	...	...	...	12 houses
Lime Street	...	...	...	...	10 houses
Baker Street	...	...	...	...	5 houses
Straws Yard	...	...	...	...	9 houses
Park Street	...	...	...	...	5 houses
High Street West	...	...	...	...	5 houses
White Horse Yard	...	...	...	...	5 houses
					<hr/>
					51 houses
					<hr/>

This was the first phase of the programme for dealing with unfit houses. The houses in White Horse Yard were withdrawn on an undertaking given by the owner not to re-let in the event of a vacancy occurring before the tenants were re-housed. These properties on vacation will be used as stores.

The remaining areas were approved by the Council and Clearance Orders confirmed by the Ministry. In order to carry out re-development of the areas, the Council purchased the sites at Baker Street, Straws Yard, and two of the house sites in Park Street. Demolition of houses in these areas has commenced.

During the year no houses were dealt with under Section 11 of the Housing Act.

The number of applicants for council houses at the end of the year was 140. This figure was 20 more than at the end of the previous year. A considerable number of inspections were made on request of the living conditions of applicants, and reports forwarded to the Housing Committee. I should like to express my appreciation of the consideration given to cases referred by me where a health factor was involved.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Table No. 4, page 25, gives a synopsis of inspections and other work carried out by the Sanitary Inspector during the year.

Milk Supply—The situation with regard to sampling of milk in the area is as follows : The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries is responsible for producers and samples from that source. The County Council is Licensing Authority for Pasteurised Milk and takes samples from such plants. The Local Authority is responsible for distribution in the area and entitled to take samples. Six samples were taken during the year and the results were as follows :

Good	...	...	...	...	6
Unsatisfactory		...	...	...	Nil
					6
Total	...	...	...	...	6

The following licences were issued during the period.

Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949, dealers' licences	3
Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations 1949, licences	1
Supplementary dealers' licences	1

Meat Inspection—There is one licensed slaughterhouse in the district. All beasts killed for human consumption were inspected. The results of these inspections were as follows :

				<i>No. inspected</i>	<i>Parts considered as unfit</i>	<i>Cause</i>
Pigs	...	...	...	54	3 heads and offal	T.B.
Sheep	...	...	...	105	3 lungs	Worms
Cattle (heifers and beasts)				25	6 livers	
					1 heart and tongue	T.B.
					1 lung	T.B.

A hundred per cent inspection of carcasses is necessary and the public is protected by such inspections. In neighbouring authorities, for which I am also Medical Officer of Health, a 100% inspection is also carried out. This fact is mentioned because all meat consumed in the district is not killed locally. Slaughtering is carried out in the licensed slaughterhouse three times per week.

Food Inspection—Ice-cream—There are 19 premises registered to sell ice-cream in the district. Eighteen samples were taken during the season and sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Northampton for examination. The results of these samples were as follows :

<i>Grade I</i>	<i>Grade II</i>	<i>Grade III</i>	<i>Grade IV</i>	<i>Total</i>
13	3	2	Nil	18

The results are satisfactory. Ministry requirements are that 80% should fall in the first two grades. The majority of ice-cream sold now is pre-packed.

The new Food Hygiene Regulations which came into force in 1956 will mean a considerable increase in the number of inspections of food premises in the area but should do much to raise and maintain a high standard. During the year a major extension was carried out to a factory in the area concerned with dry fruit cleaning and packing. This factory maintains a very high standard of hygiene. Work was commenced during the period on the construction of a large dairy. All milk at this dairy will be pasteurised.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Smallpox—No cases have occurred for many years.

Vaccination—The vaccination figures for the year were as follows :

	<i>Under 1 yr.</i>	1	2-4	5-14	15 or over	<i>Total</i>
Primary ...	19	—	—	1	5	25
Re-vaccination	—	—	—	—	1	1
TOTAL ...						26

The figures for 1954 were :

Primary ...	15	3	5	4	3	30
Re-vaccination	—	—	—	—	5	5
TOTAL ...						35

From this it will be seen that there was a fall in the number of vaccinations carried out during the year. This is disappointing, especially as 1954 was the first year that any appreciable increase in numbers was noted, and it was hoped that this would continue. However, it is pleasing to note a small increase in the number of infants vaccinated. Although the area has been clear of Smallpox for many years, Smallpox has occurred in the country and contacts of cases, not infrequently, come into the area. It is hoped that these figures will once again show a rise in the future.

Scarlet Fever—Two cases were notified during the year. In the previous year there were no cases.

Diphtheria—The area has now been free of this serious Infectious Disease for seventeen years. The following table shows the number of children in the different age groups who had completed a full course of immunisation against Diphtheria on December 31st, 1955 :

Immunisation in Relation to Child Population.

Number of Children who had completed a full course of Immunisation at any time up to 31 December, 1954

Age at 31:12:55 <i>i.e.</i> Born in Year ...	<i>Under</i> 1 1955	1 1954	2 1953	3 1952	4 1951	5 to 9 1950-1946	10 to 14 1945-1941	<i>Total</i> <i>under 15</i>
Number Immunised	2	26	52	48	46	309	230	713

The following immunisations were carried out at the Infant Welfare Centre during the year :

Immunisation against Diphtheria

<i>Under 1</i>	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	<i>Total</i>	<i>Booster</i>
12	3	5	2	1	1	—	24	37

The number of combined inoculations against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough carried out during the year were as follows :

	<i>under 1</i>	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	<i>Total</i>
Combined Diphtheria-								
Pertussis ...		14	5	3	—	1	—	23
Whooping Cough only ...		—	1	3	1	—	1	6

The above figures do not take into account children immunised by private arrangement. In most areas the combined inoculation is widely used. Whooping Cough can be a serious illness in the very young, and when deaths from this disease occur it is usually in infants under one year.

Whooping Cough—One case was notified. In the previous year there had been nineteen cases.

Measles—206 cases of measles were notified during the year compared with one case in the previous year. There were no deaths. One case was removed to hospital. The epidemic commenced in June, reached its maximum with 149 cases in July, and showed a steep fall to 22 cases in August. No further cases were notified until one occurred in December. 1951 was the last measles year, when 219 cases were notified.

Erysipelas—No cases were notified. There were no cases in the previous year.

Pneumonia—One case was notified compared with two in the previous year. No deaths were recorded.

Poliomyelitis—The area has now been free from this disease for a period of five years. This is an interesting fact, especially when one considers that neighbouring authorities have had cases in this period.

Cerebro-Spinal Fever—No case occurred. There was no case in the previous year.

Tuberculosis—Three cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year compared with four cases of pulmonary tuberculosis in the previous year. Two cases were in males and one in a female. It is interesting to note the age incidence of cases. There were two deaths from respiratory tuberculosis. No deaths were recorded in the previous

year. The following table shows the situation in Irthlingborough over the last five years :

			<i>New Cases</i>				<i>Deaths</i>			
			<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>		<i>Respiratory</i>		<i>Non-Respiratory</i>	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1951	...	...	3	1	1	0	2	0	0	0
1952	...	...	4	2	0	0	1	0	1	0
1953	...	...	2	4	1	1	2	1	0	0
1954	...	...	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
1955	...	...	2	1	0	0	1	1	0	0

During the year four cases were admitted to the Rushden House Sanatorium and three cases discharged. The number of names on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the year were :

		<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Pulmonary	...	31	18	49
Non-Pulmonary	...	3	3	6
				<hr/> 55 <hr/>

Further details concerning the disease will be found in Table No. 7, page 27.

SECTION G.

THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Table No. 3, page 24, gives Form 572 (Revised). From this table it will be seen that there are 48 factories in the Urban District and that 39 inspections were carried out. One written notice was served. The sanitary conveniences at one factory were found to be unsatisfactory and this matter was remedied.

No serious complaint was received concerning factories where mechanical power is not used with regard to ventilation, temperature, drainage, numbers employed or cleanliness.

There are 48 outworkers in the area. No complaints were received in respect of Homework (Sections 110 and 111).

SECTION H.

STATISTICAL TABLES, 1955.

TABLE NO. 1.

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1955.

<i>Causes of Death</i>					<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	1	1	2
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	—	—	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	—	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	—	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	—	—	—
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	...	—	—	—
8.	Measles	...	...	...	—	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	—	—	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	2	—	2
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	—	1	1
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	—	—	—
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	—	—	—
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	1	1	2
15.	Leukæia, aleukæmia	...	...	...	1	—	1
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	—	—	—
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	3	—	3
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	3	5	8
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	—	1	1
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	...	4	14	18
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	1	1	2
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	—	—	—
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	—	—	—
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	—	—	—
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	1	—	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	1	—	1
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	—	—	—
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	—	—	—
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	—	—	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	—	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	—	—	—
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	1	3	4
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	1	—	1
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	1	1	2
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	3	1	4
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	—	—	—
ALL CAUSES					24	29	53

TABLE NO. 2.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1955 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year	Estimated Population	Births		Deaths			
		No.	Rate	Under 1 year		All Ages	
				No.	Rate	No.	Rate
1891	2,998	—	—	—	—	—	—
1901	4,340	—	—	—	—	—	—
1902	5,526	158	34.9	21	132.9	60	13.2
1903	4,728	152	32.1	23	151.3	63	13.3
1904	4,664	137	29.3	11	80.2	56	12.0
1905	4,664	150	32.1	14	93.3	55	11.7
1906	4,566	127	27.8	13	102.3	53	11.6
1907	4,600	111	24.1	13	117.1	57	12.3
1908	4,670	122	26.1	9	73.7	45	9.6
1909	4,750	98	20.6	8	81.6	44	9.2
1910	4,800	120	25.0	6	50.0	49	10.2
1911	4,630	124	26.7	17	137.0	56	12.0
1912	4,650	89	19.1	16	112.3	55	11.8
1913	4,675	108	23.1	5	46.2	39	8.3
1914	4,725	92	19.4	8	86.9	52	11.0
1915	4,790	95	20.1	15	157.8	60	12.5
1916	4,665	98	19.3	3	30.6	42	8.7
1917	4,445	56	11.2	6	107.1	50	11.2
1918	4,667	65	12.4	9	138.4	61	13.0
1919	5,011	73	13.9	6	82.1	50	9.9
1920	5,211	109	20.9	4	36.6	49	7.8
1921	4,911	90	18.3	6	66.6	47	9.5
1922	4,970	88	17.7	4	45.4	44	8.8
1923	4,956	69	13.9	6	86.9	50	10.0
1924	5,001	75	14.9	2	26.6	46	9.1
1925	4,946	77	15.5	5	64.9	57	11.5
1926	4,983	68	13.6	3	44.1	42	8.4
1927	4,934	79	16.0	3	37.8	57	11.5
1928	4,906	77	15.6	4	51.9	49	9.9
1929	4,934	74	14.9	4	54.0	55	11.1
1930	4,839	57	11.7	3	52.5	68	14.5
1931	4,715	64	13.5	4	62.8	50	10.6
1932	4,696	52	11.0	2	38.4	48	10.2
1933	4,679	63	13.4	1	15.8	61	13.0
1934	4,640	52	11.2	4	76.9	57	12.2
1935	4,547	55	12.0	3	56.3	46	10.1
1936	4,485	56	12.4	5	89.4	49	10.9
1937	4,484	67	14.9	2	29.8	54	12.0
1938	4,500	58	12.8	3	51.7	55	12.2
1939	‡ 4,542						
	† 4,663	70	15.4	3	42.8	49	10.5
1940	5,027	57	11.3	4	70.2	55	10.9
1941	5,237	69	13.2	6	86.9	61	11.6
1942	4,749	90	18.9	2	22.2	55	11.5
1943	4,535	86	14.8	2	23.2	60	13.2
1944	4,568	72	15.8	2	27.8	62	13.6
1945	4,427	74	16.7	4	54.1	59	13.3
1946	4,700	79	16.8	2	25.31	51	10.85
1947	4,812	85	17.64	2	23.52	59	12.26
1948	4,697	102	21.71	Nil.	—	55	11.70
1949	4,967	83	16.71	4	48.19	75	15.09
1950	4,969	83	16.68	1	12.04	47	9.65
1951	5,039	81	16.07	2	24.69	62	12.30
1952	4,996	74	14.81	Nil.	—	58	11.60
1953	5,090	79	15.52	1	12.65	47	9.23
1954	5,110	73	14.28	1	13.69	48	9.39
1955	5,100	76	14.90	Nil	—	53	10.39

‡ Population for calculation of Birth-rate.

† Population for calculation of Death-rate.

TABLE No. 3.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937 and 1948,
for the year, 1955

PART I OF THE ACT

1.—Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Number of</i>		
		<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Written notices</i>	<i>Occupiers prosecuted</i>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	4	4	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	38	23	1	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	6	12	—	—
TOTAL ...	48	39	1	—

2.—Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which pro- secutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) :					
Want of cleanliness (S.I.) ...	—	—	—	—	—
(a) insufficient ...	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	1	1	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork) 	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL 	1	1	—	—	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Outwork (Sections 110 and 111)

<i>Nature of Work</i>	<i>Section 110</i>			<i>Section 111</i>		
	<i>No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)</i>	<i>No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council</i>	<i>No. of prosecu- tions for failure to supply lists</i>	<i>No. of instances of work in unwhole- some premises</i>	<i>Notices served</i>	<i>Prosecu- tions</i>
Wearing Apparel—						
Making, etc. ...	48	—	—	—	—	—
Cleaning and washing ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Basket Making ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	48	—	—	—	—	—

TABLE No. 4.

**SYNOPSIS OF INSPECTIONS, Etc., MADE BY THE
SANITARY INSPECTOR.**

Factories Act, 1937—

Number of Outworkers residing in district	...	...	48
Inspection of sanitary conveniences, etc.	...	...	39
Informal notices served and complied with	...	...	1
Inspections re means of escape in case of fire	...	...	4

Food and Drugs Act, 1938—

Slaughterhouses licensed	...	...	...	...	...	1
Premises registered for sale of ice-cream—						
As at 1st January	19

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933—

Licensed slaughtermen	5
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Milk Acts—

Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949, dealers' licences issued	3
Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949, Licences issued...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Supplementary dealers' licence issued	...	...	...	...	...	1

Public Health Act, 1936—

Drainage defects repaired	...	...	...	...	...	24
W.Cs. converted from 'slop closets	...	...	...	...	...	11
Sec. 47, W.C. conversions—grants in aid of	...	...	...	...	...	11
Cleansing of cesspits, cleansing on informal action	...	...	...	...	...	8
Housing repairs—informal action	...	...	...	...	...	56
Filthy house, informal action	...	...	...	...	...	1

Unsound Food Surrendered—

Imported Beef	...	...	...	...	64 lbs.
Evaporated Milk	...	...	...	...	12 tins
Corned Beef	...	...	...	...	34 lbs.
Canned fruit	...	...	...	...	12 lbs.
Canned vegetables	25 lbs.
Preserves	4 lbs.

Retail Food Premises Inspections	76
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TABLE NO. 5.

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.
(Other than Tuberculosis) 1955.

<i>Disease</i>	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	TOTAL
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Measles ...	—	—	1	—	—	33	149	22	—	—	—	1	206
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Influenza ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-SpinalFever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	—	—	1	—	1	34	150	22	—	—	—	2	210

TABLE NO. 6.

AGE INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.
(Other than Tuberculosis) 1955.

<i>Disease</i>	—1	—2	—3	—4	—5	—10	—15	—20	—35	—45	—65	65+	All Ages	Removed to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Measles ...	1	18	18	24	29	113	3	—	—	—	—	—	206	1	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Influenza ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-SpinalFever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	1	18	19	24	29	115	3	—	—	—	—	1	210	1	—

TABLE No. 7.

NEW CASES OF AND DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS, 1955.

Age Periods	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
— 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
— 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—35	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—45	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—65	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65+	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
TOTALS	2	1	—	—	1	1	—	—

TABLE No. 8.

ANALYSIS OF WATER CONSUMPTION, 1933-1955 (Million Gallons)

Year	Total metered Con- sumption	Trade %	Domestic Con- sumption	%	Total Con- sumption
1933	—	—	—	—	31.76
1934	12.547	36.8	21.629	63.2	34.176
1935	20.157	48.9	21.020	51.1	41.177
1936	35.541	63.4	20.549	36.6	56.090
1937	45.222	68.8	20.584	31.2	65.806
1938	46.222	63.6	26.642	36.4	72.864
1939	49.244	64.2	27.505	35.8	76.749
1940	50.505	61.5	31.600	38.5	82.105
1941	46.471	54.5	38.791	45.5	85.262
1942	48.349	56.2	37.739	43.8	86.088
1943	51.797	55.6	41.401	44.4	93.198
1944	51.760	54.2	43.668	45.8	95.428
1945	45.669	50.3	45.148	49.7	90.817
1946	38.222	47.7	41.957	52.3	80.179
1947	38.894	45.3	47.006	54.7	85.900
1948	37.684	43.5	48.930	56.5	86.614
1949	45.126	46.9	51.094	53.1	96.220
1950	42.325	42.6	56.999	57.4	99.324
1951	42.705	49.3	43.820	50.7	86.252
1952	43.309	54.6	36.048	45.4	79.357
1953	41.650	48.8	43.088	51.2	85.348
1954	38.234	48.2	41.054	51.8	79.288
1955	40.158	46.7	45.788	53.3	85.946

